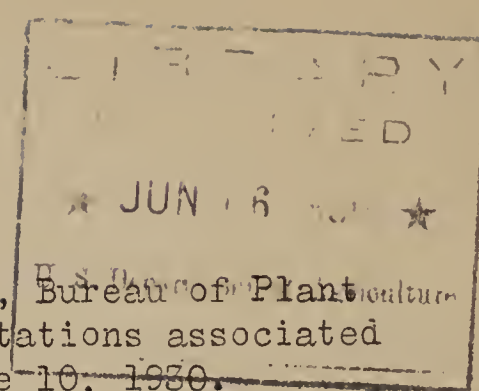


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A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 34 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, June 10, 1930.

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How-do-you-do members of the Farm and Home Hour Family:

Today in our Garden Calendar, I wish to call attention to a number of points that fruit and vegetable growers will do well to bear in mind during the next month or two. The first point relates to the importance of looking after fruit trees and other trees that were set the past spring, and especially where a few trees have been planted in the home orchard or about the home, and there is a tendency to neglect to cultivate the soil and keep the weeds from growing about them.

Only yesterday, I had occasion to visit a neighbor's place, and I noted that three young apple trees, which were planted a little over a year ago, were turning yellow, probably from the effects of the drought, but the trees had not been cultivated, the grass was growing around them, and there was every indication that they were starving for both moisture and nitrogen.

I advised him to work the ground for about 3 feet around each tree, and to scatter about a pound of nitrate of soda over the space under each tree, but that the nitrogen should not be applied too close to the trunks of the trees. I also advised him to apply a few pails of water to dissolve the nitrogen and to wash it into the soil. In young orchards where crops have been planted between the rows of trees there is danger that the trees will be neglected. The young trees should be hoed, and wherever they have become loosened, a little soil should be drawn about them and firmly trampled.

It is getting rather late now to apply nitrogen to young trees, but wherever possible, a cover crop should be planted in young orchards.

The strawberry season is over in the southern part of the country, and renovation of the beds is in order. This should not be put off too long, however, the time for doing the work will depend somewhat on weather conditions. We are often asked the question as to whether the burning over of strawberry fields is a good practice. Our reply is that very much will depend upon conditions. If the mulching material is not too heavy, the strawberries can be mowed and the tops allowed to dry, then when the wind is blowing in the same direction that the rows run, you can fire the field on the side from which the wind is blowing, and allow the fire to travel rapidly over the plants. If the quantity of material to be burned is very large, I wouldn't recommend this practice. The best way to renovate a strawberry field is to plow out the middles, narrowing the rows to about a foot or less, then either chop out the surplus plants with hoes, or, sometimes, a cultivator is run crosswise of the rows, cutting out the plants so as to leave them in blocks about 30 inches apart. Considerable hand hoeing will be required to thin the plants in these blocks, after which





the soil can be worked back to the remaining plants, and a new set of plants allowed to form.

Those of you who live in the section where bunch grapes, such as Concord, Niagara, etc., are grown, should not neglect to spray them at least twice with Bordeaux mixture to prevent the rotting of the grapes. The first spray should be applied as soon as the grapes are formed and the second when they are about the size of a small pea. I have found it quite satisfactory to place 2-pound paper bags over some of the best bunches of grapes, tying the bags around the stems of the bunches by means of short pieces of string. This prevents injury from insects and will normally produce grapes of very fine finish. It isn't practical, however, on a very large scale.

Late potatoes are being planted in many parts of the middle north, and I want to remind you that where the seed has been kept in cold storage, it should be taken out several days in advance of planting, and spread in partial shade to gradually warm up, and the sprouts start a trifle. Don't cut the seed, however, until you are ready to plant it.

Another point is that where fertilizers are used in the rows for potatoes, be sure that it is thoroughly mixed with the soil, and that the seed is not placed in direct contact with the fertilizer.

It is about time for planting vine cuttings of sweet potatoes in the South, and don't neglect to plant plenty so as to have a supply of sweets for home use.

The season for cutting asparagus is over in most sections and the crowns should be given a liberal application of fertilizer, all weeds removed, and the ground cultivated, so that the plants will make a heavy growth during the summer.

Regardless of where you are located, you have the problem of keeping your crops free from insects.

I have been asked to repeat the directions for controlling the Mexican bean beetle. For Lima beans, and all beans that are shelled, that is, of which the green pods are not eaten, spray the beans with m-a-g-n-e-s-i-u-m arsenate at the rate of 1 ounce of the powdered magnesium arsenate to 3 gallons of water, or on a larger scale, 1 pound to 50 gallons of water. Apply to the bean plants with a fairly high pressure spray outfit, and be sure that you get plenty of the poison solution on the undersides of leaves.

For snap beans use one of the pyrethrum extracts. There are 2 or 3 well known brands on the market, and while this material is quite expensive, a little goes a long way in controlling the bean beetle, and it is not poisonous to humans in the quantities required for controlling the bean beetle. It should be used according to the directions on the package, and soap should be added to the water with which the pyrethrum extract is mixed in order to make it spread evenly on the plants. I have found from personal experience that the main point in controlling the Mexican bean beetle is to have a protective coating of the poison on the plants before the beetles



get started, then keep the new growth thoroughly coated by spraying at least once a week.

These control measures are fully described in Farmers' Bulletin " No. 1624-F, entitled "The Mexican Bean Beetle in the East, and Its Control. This publication can be obtained upon request to the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

I shall not be on the Farm and Home Hour program during the next 2 weeks, but hope to be with you again the first week in July.

